

Microlepidoptera in Scotland, 1978

By A. M. EMMET *

(Concluded from page 96)

GRACILLARIIDAE: GRACILLARIINAE

Caloptilia rufipennella (Hübner). New to Scotland. On the 19th of July we parked the car in Yair Hill Forest, Selkirkshire (VC 79) and, in accordance with our frequent practice, my wife and I walked in opposite directions to extend the range of our search. A few minutes later we rejoined forces with smug expressions on our faces and sycamore leaves with their lobes spun into cones in our polythene bags. On the principle of "ladies first", I give my wife the credit for finding the first feeding. A few of the cones were still tenanted and we bred five adults. Subsequently we found larval cones in VCs 68, 72, 78 and 81, showing it to be widespread in that region. In the unpublished Victoria County History for Westmorland (proofs in the general library of BMNH), it is stated Stainton recorded "*rufipennella*" at Ambleside in 1846; later Stainton himself and subsequent authors discounted the record but in the light of our discovery one wonders now whether it may not have been correct. In England, *C. rufipennella* has been recorded only from East Anglia and the adjacent counties, viz. VCs 19, 25, 26, 28, 29 and 54. All these are Emmet records: is it not time that more lepidopterists switched off their light-traps and made records in the field?

C. falconipennella (Hübner). On the 7th of August we stopped at a lay-by facing Loch Lomond just south of the junction of the A82 and A83 (MR NN 3203). On some young alders we found feeding, both mines and leaf-folds, which I am virtually certain were made by this species. The larvae had gone but we saw no cocoons or adults. *C. falconipennella* has not been found in Scotland and its most northerly English locality is the Lake District. I am well acquainted with its feeding since I have already made a detailed description of the early stages from Surrey material; however, I do not feel justified in making a positive record and urge other entomologists to try to visit the spot and look for larvae.

Calybitis auroguttella (Stephens). A record made near Unapool on the west coast of West Sutherland (VC 108) is the most northerly for this species.

Parornix loganella (Stainton) and *P. betulae* (Stainton). No records were made since I cannot distinguish the mines, larval folds or larvae. I would be grateful for any information enabling the early stages to be separated.

P. devoniella (Stainton). Apparently new to Scotland. Our two records are odd since we found it only right in the south near Newcastleton, Roxburghshire (VC 80) and in the far north at Drumbeg on the west coast of West Sutherland (VC 108). We looked for it unsuccessfully in all intervening localities where there was hazel.

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P. scoticella (Stainton). Though bivoltine in the south of England, it is apparently univoltine in Scotland, not feeding until August. We found it only in West Perthshire (VC 87) on the 7th of August.

P. alpicola (Wocke) and *P. leucostola* Pelham-Clinton. A main objective was to make descriptions of the early stages. Accordingly, ECP-C took us to Invernaver Nature Reserve and Eribol (West Sutherland, VC 108), where he had discovered them. Since the early stages of the two appear to be indistinguishable, one description will have to serve for both; this will appear in MBGBI and, in a shorter form, in the forthcoming *A Field Guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera*. An interesting feature is that what appears to be a leaf spun into a pod is in fact a mine which causes the leaf to fold downwards and the white lower epidermis to project, giving an illusion of white silk. The cocoon is spun on the underside of a leaf which curls downwards to conceal it, and it, therefore, is in a kind of pod.

Other Gracillariinae which were recorded were *Caloptilia populetorum* (Zeller), *C. elongella* (Linnaeus), *C. betulicola* (Hering), *C. alchimiella* (Scopoli), *C. stigmatella* (Fabricius)—only in Selkirkshire (VC 79) for it evidently feeds later in Scotland, *C. syringella* (Fabricius), *Aspilapterix tringipennella* (Zeller), *Parornix anglicella* (Stainton) and *P. torquillella* (Zeller). *Callisto denticulella* (Thunberg), which we recorded in Dumfriesshire (VC 72) in 1975, appears not to extend further north.

GRACILLARIIDAE: LITHOCOLLETINAE

Records were made only of species which could be determined with certainty from their mines or were reared. A list was sent to Dr. I. A. Watkinson who reported that it gave 52 new vice-county records. Recorded species were as follows: *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae* (Frey), *P. sorbi* (Frey), *P. pomonella* (Zeller), *P. corylifoliella* f. *betulae* (Zeller), *P. scopariella* (Zeller), *P. maestingella* (Müller), *P. coryli* (Nicelli), *P. rajella* (Linnaeus) (*alnifoliella* (Hübner)), *P. ulmifoliella* (Hübner) and *P. geniculella* (Ragonot).

CHOREUTIDAE

Eutromula diana (Hübner). A major aim was to search for the early stages. Our search was concentrated on Glen Affric (VC 96) where ECP-C had previously taken the moth. We devoted the whole of the 29th of July to this purpose, even returning after dinner and continuing the quest until dark. Something like 32 man hours of intensive searching resulted in only two cocoons, both found by JMC-H. He kindly gave me one of these and we both reared our moth. We believe this is the first occasion on which this rare species has been reared in Britain. The cocoons were spun on the underside of leaves of birch, the foodplant. A few weeks later I studied cocoons of *E. pariana* (Clerck) found at Saffron Walden and was struck by the close similarity; the only difference was in situation, for they were spun on the upper side of the leaves of apple, their foodplant. Why did we find so few? Perhaps the

usual pupation site is different, for example in leaf-litter; or possibly the leaves on which the larvae have fed and pupated drop to the ground.

COLEOPHORIDAE

This family was little observed. Cases which we found on birch at Glen Affric were subsequently determined by Mr. R. W. J. Uffen as *Colephora binderella* (Kollar), and a record I passed to him of *C. violacea* (Ström) (*hornigi* Toll) from Dumbartonshire (VC 99) was, I believe, new to the county. We saw mines of *C. arctostaphyli* Meder not uncommonly while we were searching the bearberry at Tulloch Moor.

ELACHISTIDAE

I took specimens of *Biselachista eleochariella* (Stainton) beside Lock Thom, Renfrewshire (VC 76) and, directed by ECP-C, of *B. serricornis* (Stainton) near Alvie (VC 96). We found *Elachista kilmunella* (Stainton) beside Lock Thom, in Strathspey and at Glen Affric, where the form was unusual. The only feeding elachistid larvae we encountered were of *E. cerusella* (Hübner) near Newcastleton, Roxburghshire (VC 80).

OECOPHORIDAE

Schiffermuelleria similella (Hübner). A fresh specimen taken on the lower slopes of Cairngorm (VC 96) on the 24th of July has prompted me to change the time of appearance of the imago from "6" to "6-7" in the *Field Guide*.

Depressaria olerella Zeller and *D. silesiaca* Heineman. Feeding larvae of both these species were found on *Achillea millefolium* near Kincaid (VC 96) and adults were reared. The larvae and feeding patterns were described, in the case of *D. silesiaca*, it is believed, for the first time in Britain. The information has been used in the *Field Guide* and will be available to the authors of MBGBI, if they want it.

GELECHIIDAE

The family was rarely encountered. The only record of note was of *Bryotropha boreella* (Douglas) captured beside Loch Thom (VC 76). I am grateful to Mr. E. S. Bradford for dissecting and determining this moth.

MOMPHIDAE

Mompha raschkiella (Zeller). Mines were plentiful on *Epilobium angustifolium* as far north as Ullapool, Wester Ross (VC 95); the majority of the 15 vice-county records which we made were new.

TORTRICIDAE

Pandemis cinnamomeana (Treitschke). A specimen taken resting on a leaf on the 19th of July at Newcastleton, Roxburghshire (VC 80) constitutes, I believe, the first record for Scotland (see Bradley, Tremewan & Smith, 1973:96).

Acleris logiana (Clerck). I was pleased to rear a specimen from a larva found on birch at Glen Affric during our search for *Eutromula diana* (Hübner).

A. hyemana (Haworth). reared a specimen from a larval spinning on *Dryas octopetala* found at Invernaver (VC 108). This foodplant seems not to have been recorded previously.

PYRALIDAE

Few species of interest were seen. *Crambus ericella* (Hübner) was found only at Inchnadamph (VC 108), perhaps because the day of our visit there was the only one on which the sun shone brightly. We made a special expedition, following directions given us by Mr. B. Goater, to Craigie, Aberdeenshire (VC 92) to look for *Catoptria permutatella* (Herrich-Schäffer). We took only two specimens, one worn and the other in mint condition. On our return to our base at Newtonmore, we found that the good one was missing; I had evidently dropped the pill-box when I was transferring it to our cold box which carries our lunch on the outward journey and our specimens on the way home. If I catch you laughing, I'll wallop you hard.

The expedition would not have been possible without a grant from the Professor Hering Memorial Research Fund. We were generously given more than we applied for. We are most grateful to the Fund and hope that the entomological results have justified the award.

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EPIBLEMA CNICICOLANA ZELL. IN HAMPSHIRE. — On 20th June 1976 I took a single male specimen of this scarce moth in Botley Wood. The wing pattern is quite distinct from other members of its genus, and superficially it looks much more like *Epinotia demarniana* F.v.R., being of a similar size though with a straighter costa, and the ocellus not so chalky white. Examination of the genitalia confirms the identification. The only previous record from the Hampshire mainland was by the late Mr. Ffennell who reported it from one area in the Itchen Valley in VC 12, and he was later rather doubtful that he had made a correct identification. — Dr. J. R. LANGMAID, 38 Cumberland Court, Festing Road, Southsea, Hants., PO4 0NH.

DEILEPHILA ELPENOR (L.) IN INVERNESS-SHIRE. — While working for the Nature Conservancy Council in the Cairngorms, I recorded a specimen of *D. elpenor* (L.) from Kincaig on 30.vi.76. Russell Leavett, the R.S.P.B. warden at Insh Marshes, has since recorded single specimens on 2.vii.77 and 8.vii.78 at Insh. — EUAN A. M. MACALPINE, Hawkins', St. Cross Road, Winchester, SO23 9HX.